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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/034,175	12/20/2001	Theresia Lindner	P01,0547	8956

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EXAMINER

SMITH, PETER J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application N .

10/034,175

Applicant(s)

LINDNER, THERESIA

Examiner

Peter J Smith

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14, 17, 18 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: application filed on 12/20/2001.
2. Claims 1-20 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 8, 13, and 18 are independent claims.

### *Claim Objections*


3. Claims 14, 17-18, and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities: The word "product" is used interchangeably with the phrase "work routine" in limitations of these claims. The Examiner believes that Applicant intended the word "product" to be "work routine" because product would lack antecedent basis in claim 14 and the structure of the claims appears that claims 1-12 are intended to focus on processing messages related to products and claims 13-20 are intended to focus on processing messages related to work routines. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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5. Claims <sup>1-20</sup> are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ayyadurai, US 6,718,367 B1 filed 6/1/1999.

**Regarding independent claim 1**, Ayyadurai discloses receiving, at a central database, an electronic form which has been filled out so that it contains a message and information which identifies a product for which an improvement is suggested in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses retrieving the message from the electronic form in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses based on the information, classifying the message and storing the message in a table of the central database, the table being related to the product in col. 5 line 60 – col. 6 line 14.

**Regarding dependent claim 2**, Ayyadurai discloses obtaining the form through a web page, the web page having a link to the central database, the electronic form having a message field, a list of products, and a submit function in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses making the form when activating the link in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses writing the message in the message field, marking one of the products of the list of products that can be marked, the marked product relates to the product to be improved, and automatically submitting the electronic form to the central database when the message is written in the message field, the product is marked, and the submit function is activated in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11.

**Regarding dependent claim 3**, Ayyadurai discloses wherein the product is a computer software product which includes the electronic form available when the computer-software is configured on a computer, the electronic form having a message field and a submit function in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses writing a message in the message field in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses automatically directing the electronic form to the central databank when the submit function is

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activated and the computer is connected to an information network in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11.

**Regarding dependent claim 4**, Ayyadurai discloses after storing the message in a table, scanning the message for predefined terms and, according to terms found in the scanning, forwarding the message to a predefined address in col. 5 lines 24-59.

**Regarding dependent claim 5**, Ayyadurai discloses predefining the address to be an address related to a marketing department of a manufacturer of the product in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 4 lines 15-18.

**Regarding dependent claim 6**, Ayyadurai discloses predefining the address to be an address related to a product development department of a manufacturer of the product in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 4 lines 15-18.

**Regarding dependent claim 7**, Ayyadurai discloses adapting a list of products to a person who downloads the Web page in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11.

**Regarding independent claim 8**, Ayyadurai discloses an electronic form having a message field, a list of products, and a submit function in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses a central database which contains tables respectively related to products in the list of products in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses an electronic form being obtainable through a web page which can be downloaded with a computer connected to the Internet in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses an electronic form being filled out by writing a message via the computer in the message field and by marking one of the products of the list of products in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses wherein the electronic

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form is filled out being conveyed to the central database by activating a submit function in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses wherein the central database stores the message based on the marked product in a table of the tables related to the marked product in col. 5 line 60 – col. 6 line 14.

**Regarding dependent claim 9**, Ayyadurai discloses wherein the central database comprises a scanner which scans a message for predefined terms and forwards the message to a predefined address according to terms found in scanning the message in col. 5 lines 24-59.

**Regarding dependent claim 10**, Ayyadurai discloses predefining the address to be an address related to a marketing department of a manufacturer of the product in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 4 lines 15-18.

**Regarding dependent claim 11**, Ayyadurai discloses predefining the address to be an address related to a product development department of a manufacturer of the product in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 4 lines 15-18.

**Regarding dependent claim 12**, Ayyadurai discloses adapting a list of products to a person who downloads the Web page in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11.

**Regarding independent claim 13**, Ayyadurai discloses receiving, at a central database, an electronic form which has been filled out so that it contains a message and information which identifies a work routine for which an improvement is suggested in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses retrieving the message from the electronic form in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses based on the information, classifying the message and storing the message in a table of the central database, the table being related to the work routine in col. 5 line 60 – col. 6 line 14.

**Regarding dependent claim 14**, Ayyadurai discloses obtaining the form through a web page, the web page having a link to the central database, the electronic form having a message field, a list of work routines, and a submit function in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses making the form when activating the link in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses writing the message in the message field, marking one of the work routines of the list of work routines that can be marked, the marked work routine relates to the work routine to be improved, and automatically submitting the electronic form to the central database when the message is written in the message field, the work routine is marked, and the submit function is activated in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11.

**Regarding dependent claim 15**, Ayyadurai discloses wherein the product is a computer software product which includes the electronic form available when the computer-software is configured on a computer, the electronic form having a message field and a submit function in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses writing a message in the message field in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses automatically directing the electronic form to the central databank when the submit function is activated and the computer is connected to an information network in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11.

**Regarding dependent claim 16**, Ayyadurai discloses after storing the message in a table, scanning the message for predefined terms and, according to terms found in the scanning, forwarding the message to a predefined address in col. 5 lines 24-59.

**Regarding dependent claim 17**, Ayyadurai discloses adapting a list of work routines to a person who downloads the Web page in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11.

**Regarding independent claim 18**, Ayyadurai discloses an electronic form having a message field, a list of products, and a submit function in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses a central database which contains tables respectively related to products in the list of work routines in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses an electronic form being obtainable through a web page which can be downloaded with a computer connected to the Internet in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses an electronic form being filled out by writing a message via the computer in the message field and by marking one of the work routines of the list of work routines in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses wherein the electronic form is filled out being conveyed to the central database by activating a submit function in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11. Ayyadurai discloses wherein the central database stores the message based on the marked work routine in a table of the tables related to the marked work routine in col. 5 line 60 – col. 6 line 14.

**Regarding dependent claim 19**, Ayyadurai discloses wherein the central database comprises a scanner which scans a message for predefined terms and forwards the message to a predefined address according to terms found in scanning the message in col. 5 lines 24-59.

**Regarding dependent claim 20**, Ayyadurai discloses adapting a list of work routines to a person who downloads the Web page in col. 1 lines 33-50 and col. 3 line 47 – col. 4 line 11.

### ***Conclusion***



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6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Buskirk, Jr. et al., US 6,424,997 filed 1/27/1999 discloses a machine learning based electronic mail system which includes classifier and action selection modules to analyze incoming messages. Rice et al., US 6,411,947 B2 provisional application filed 4/4/1997 discloses automatically interpreting and routing electronic messages. Angotti et al., US 6,182,059 B1 provisional application filed 4/4/1997 discloses a method for automatically interpreting and routing electronic messages. Johnson et al., US 6,477,551 B1 filed 2/16/1999 discloses interacting with incoming text information by categorizing the incoming text information. Richardson et al., US 6,278,996 B1 provisional application filed 3/31/1997 discloses a system and method for message process and response. Lang et al., US 5,867,799 filed 4/4/1996 discloses an information system and method for filtering a massive flow of information entities to meet user information classification needs.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter J Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-4101. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PJS  
12/10/2004

  
JOSEPH FEILD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER